

# WHISKEY GULCH SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

March 16, 2009 Land Board

## Location of Sale:

- Clearwater Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 13 air miles northeast of Lincoln, Montana.
- Lewis and Clark – Section 36, T15N-R7W
- 100% Common School Trust

## Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 14,470 tons at 5.6" diameter inside bark (DIB), or 2,056 MBF.
- The estimated minimum value is \$5.24/ton for stumpage and Forest Improvement on all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.04 tons/MBF is the estimated conversion factor of 5.6" DIB.

## Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale includes seven harvest units totaling 370 acres.
- This sale would primarily harvest timber that has been killed by the Western spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle. Small sawlog size Douglas-fir that has shown resistance to budworm will be retained, approximately 15 trees per acre. All ponderosa pine will be left. Additionally, one snag and one snag recruit per acre will be left for wildlife considerations.
- This sale treats approximately 22 acres of old growth. Post-harvest, these 22 acres will not meet the Department's definition of old growth.

## Harvest Systems:

- 73% Tractor
- 27% Cable

## Road Construction:

- Access to the sale is across existing roads. DNRC has obtained a temporary easement in conjunction with this timber sale. DNRC would maintain 2.64 miles of the existing road. Approximately 4.6 miles of new road would also be built and abandon 1.5 miles of old road. This new road construction would be closed upon completion of harvest activities. The current stream crossing will be replaced with a temporary bridge further down stream to prevent any further sediment delivery and provide a more stable crossing site. The old site would also be rehabilitated.

## Public Involvement:

- Scoping letters were mailed to adjacent landowners and other interested parties on December 3, 2007. A public notice was published in the *Blackfoot Valley Dispatch* newspaper. Notices were also posted at the Lincoln Post Office. Written, e-mail, and verbal comments were received from the public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies. From these comments a list of potential issues was developed and used to help guide project development

## Issues and Mitigations:

- **Grizzly Bear:** There would be no increase in open road density and patches of sub-merchantable trees would be left to break up site distance. Operations would begin after June 15 each year of the contract to help reduce the risk of human/grizzly bear contact in the early spring.
- **Lynx:** The effects of the proposed harvest on lynx habitat would not likely differ from taking no action. This is because the current stands are currently experiencing extensive mortality. With or without timber harvest, canopy cover is being reduced.
- **Hydrology:** The proposed timber harvest and road construction are consistent with State Forest Land Management Rules, Montana BMP's and the SMZ law, to mitigate impacts to water quality. An undersized stream crossing, which is currently causing sediment delivery and obstructing fish passage, would be replaced with a temporary bridge. This would result in reduced sediment loads and improved fish habitat.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Whiskey Gulch Timber Sale.**

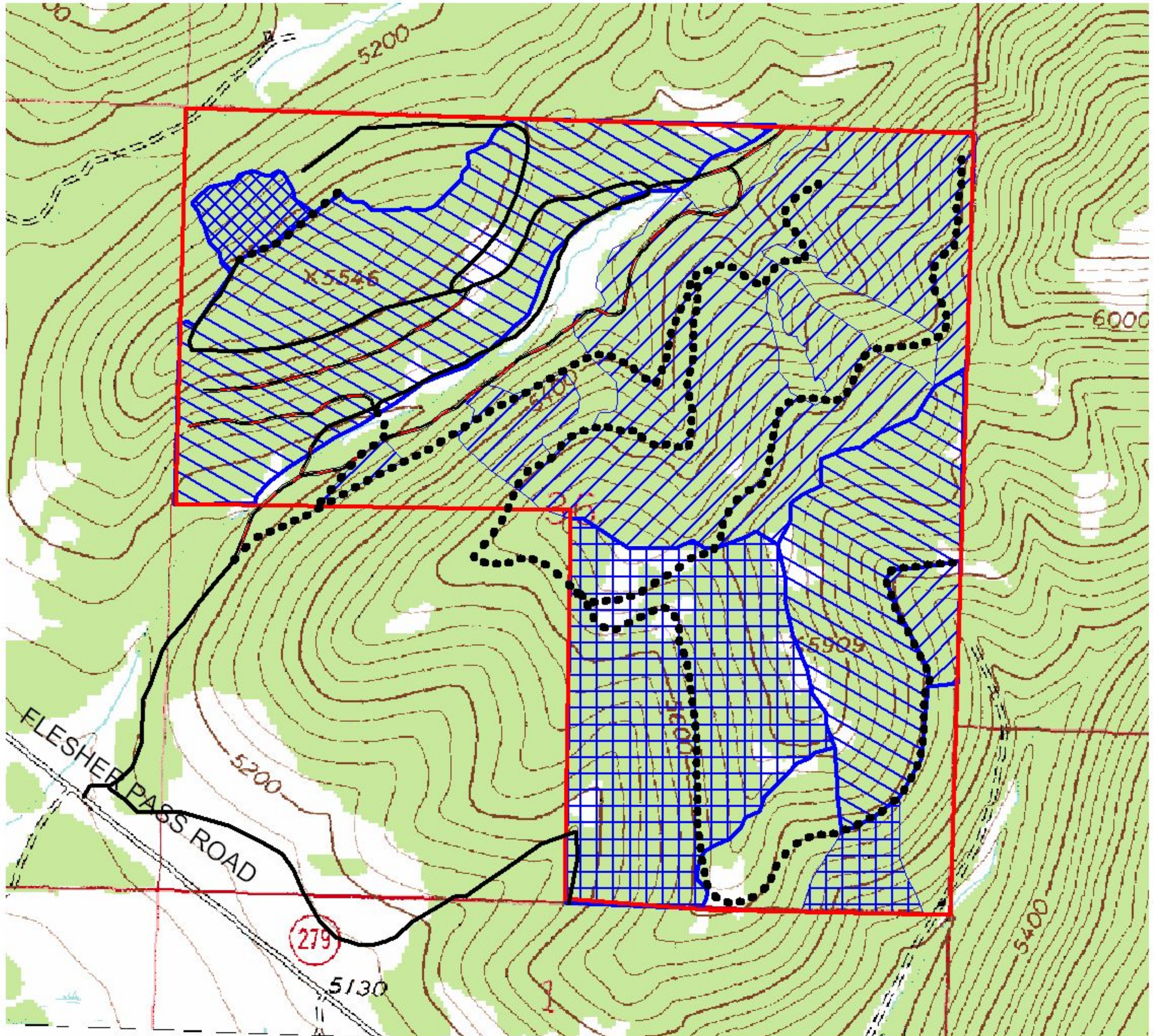




# Whiskey Gulch Salvage Timber Sale

## Section 36 T15N R07W

### Project Overview



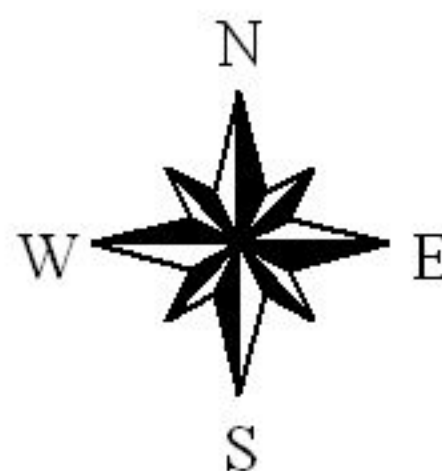
#### Timber Sale Roads

- Abandonment
- Existing Road
- New Construction
- Property Boundary

#### Harvest Units

- 1
- 2
- 2-C
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles



Attachment A-2

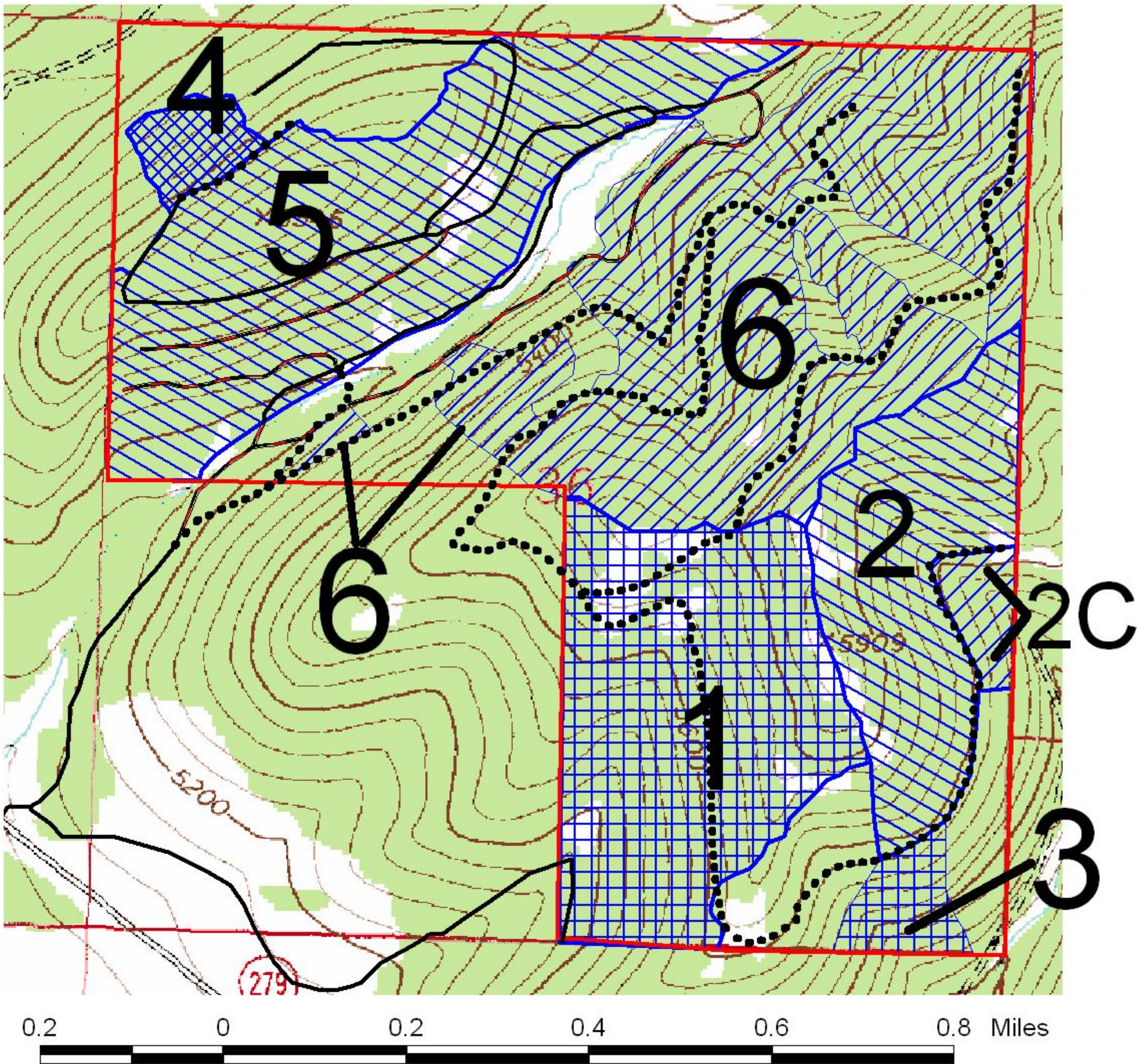
N.C.S. November 13, 2008



# Whiskey Gulch Salvage Timber Sale

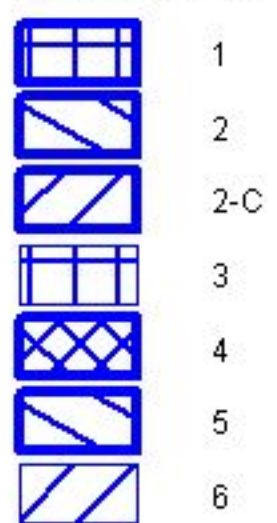
## Section 36 T15N R07W

### Harvest Unit Map



#### LEGEND

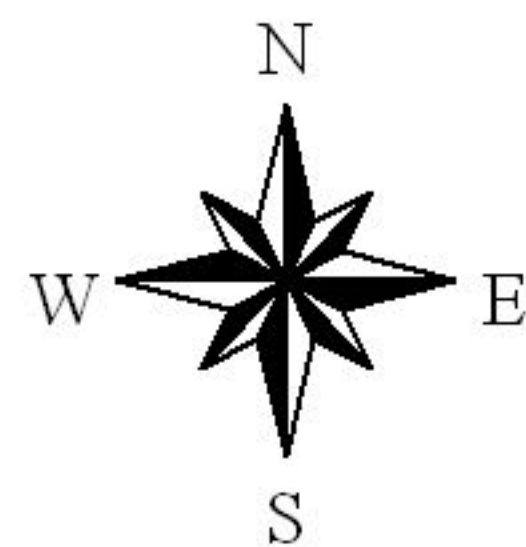
##### Harvest Units



##### Timber Sale Roads



Property Boundary



Attachment A-3

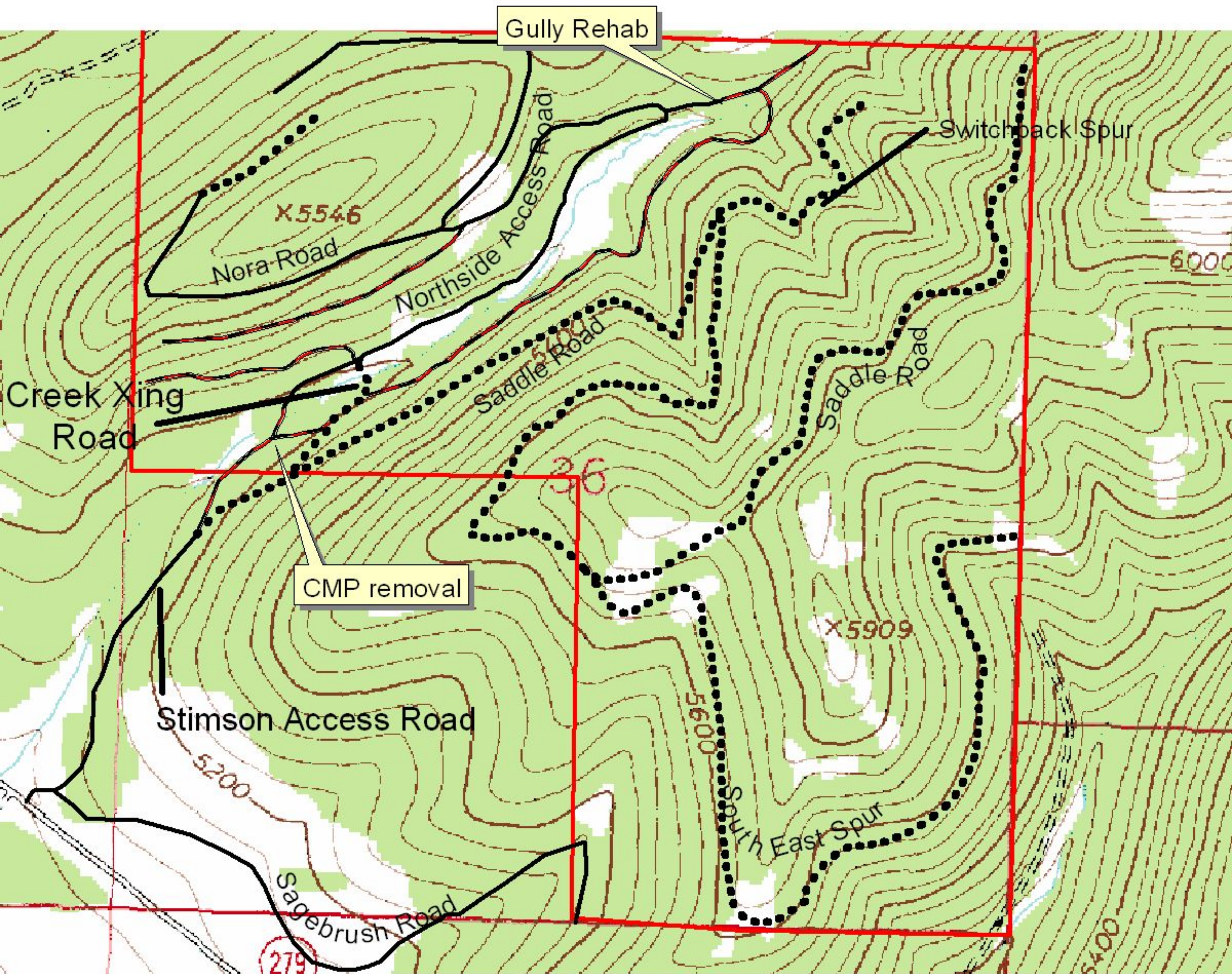
N.C.S. November 14, 2008



# Whiskey Gulch Salvage Timber Sale

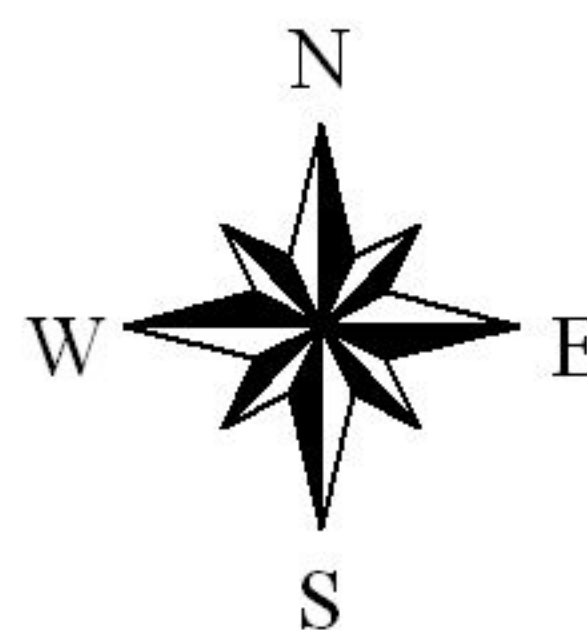
## Section 36 T15N R08W

### Road work Map



0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles

- Timber Sale Roads
- Abandonment
  - Existing Road
  - New Construction
  - Property Boundary



Attachment A-4

N.C.S. November 14, 2008